planet AMIGA

The Official M.A.U.G. Magazine Issue #3

WE HAVE MOVED

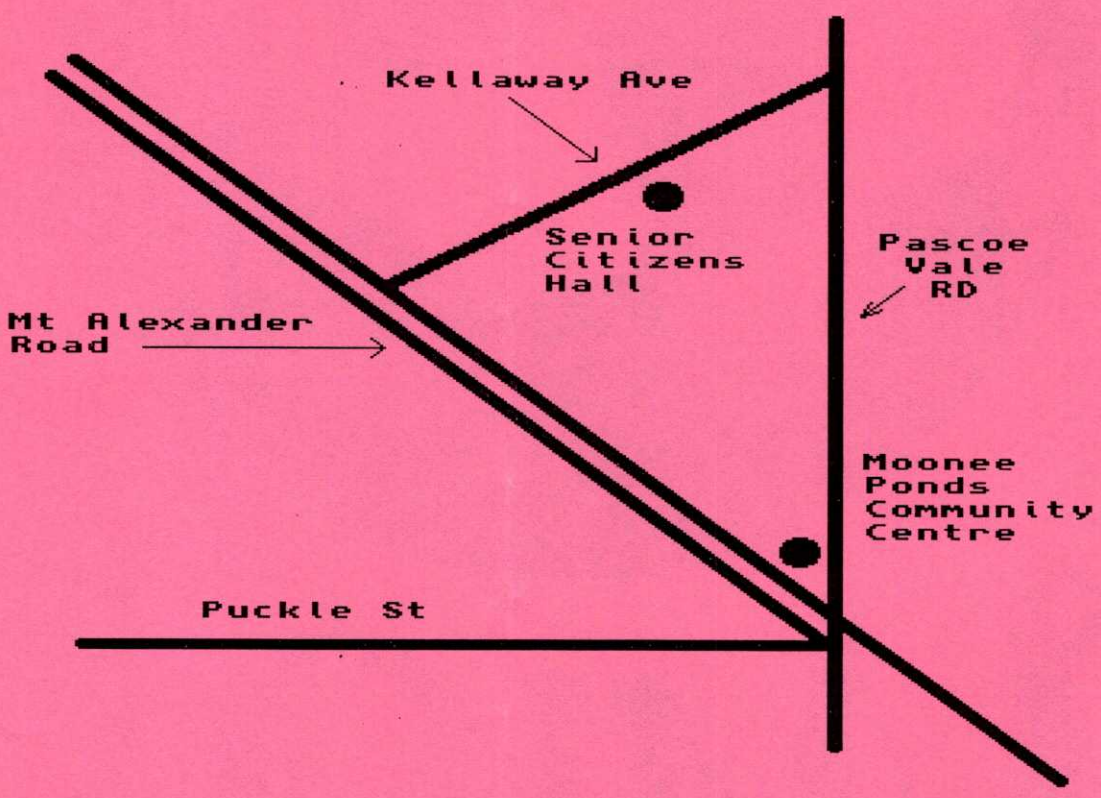
Due to renovations at the Moonee Ponds Community Centre, the Melbourne Amiga Users Group has moved to a new venue and a new meeting night which will be effective for the next 12-18 months.

Meetings are now held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at the Senior Citizen's Hall in Kellaway Ave, Moonee Ponds.

The hall is easy to find. Refer to the map below. It has glass doors and wheelchair ramps outside. There is parking on the other side of the street.

One thing to watch that you do is bring your extension cables and plug strips as there are not a lot of power points at the new venue.

For any queries, contact David Myers on (03) 9417-7750 or davem@starnet.com.au



Forthcoming Meetings:

Thursday, October 1st, at the Senior Citizens Hall.....
Thursday, October 15th, at the Senior Citizen's Hall...
AmigaFest98, October 24-25th, Albert Park...
Thursday, November 5th, at the Senior Citizen's Hall....
Thursday, November 19th, Senior Citizen's Hall....
Thursday, December 3rd, Senior Citizen's Hall....ALL WELCOME

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ENJOY!

Rant & Rave

Welcome back to the sane side of the galaxy! We are the THIRD PLANET FROM THE CLUB!!!!There have been several changes since you last perused our pages, these changes being:
a new name, a new meeting place and a new committee (there is more information referring to the changes to be found on page 16. We had to change as Bill Gates had a contract out on Amiga users 8). So this is the first installment as the official magazine of M.A.U.G. (Melbourne Amiga User Group). On with the show!!!

Speaking of which there is a Melbourne Amiga Show happening on October 24-25 at Albert Park. There is more on this show on pages 6-7.

Garry, our co-pilot, has been scouring the world to bring you the Boing feature and has put fingers to keyboard to give us a look in to the realm of Arexx. These can be found on pages 5 and 12-13, respectively.

Paul has been cooking up a storm burning CD's for a while now and has decided to grace our pages with a feature on the software and hardware available for creating your own CD's. If making musical masterpieces or backing up your hard drive (finally) interest you, or even if you are considering whether or not to shell out the money to buy a burner, then pages 8-10 will be to your liking.

David, our resident Amiga Surgeon, has been hard at work slaving over a steaming Amiga to bring us the second chapter in his series on overclocking. This can be found in Tech Talk on page 15 (or should that be the Amiga Autopsy section , seeing as we are called Maug?).

Rick has come up with a cunning plan, so cunning in fact that you could pin a tail on it and call it an Amiga!!!

Rick has put forward the idea of a contest which Planet Amiga thought was a sterling idea!! Well done Rick, a Bronze Amiga award goes out to you for this one. The contest can be found on page 14.

Hey wait a sec! I know you all want to see what the contest is about and how to win and read all the things I just mentioned but, before you do remember this is your magazine too. If there is anything you want to see in here or anything you want to submit or demo for the club don't hesitate to get in touch either by phone, mail (e or snail) or in person, with a committee member because we can only survive as long as we all breathe life into the club and what it stands for, and we all know what that is right?

No? Shall I repeat it then?

The best damn computer on the planet and this is why we are called what we are , Planet Amiga!

you can contact me at :

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Australia
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May the Amiga spirit serve and protect us all for many years to come!!!!

BOING LORE

In the June/98 issue of Amazing Computing/Amiga (www.pimpub.com) an article was written concerning the two different Boing Ball logos being used. Petro Tyschtschenko of Amiga International supports the "*Powered by* AMIGA" rendered boing ball. On the other hand, Joe Torre of Amiga Inc is devoted to the "classic" original boing ball. Joe has been seen painting ping-pong balls in the Boing format while on planes and in airport waiting areas. He has also written a poem.

In the Boingining

By Joe Torre

In the beginning, there was the Ball, and it was Boing!
The Gurus of the day created the checks, and they were marked.
The marks thus made, were Red, amidst the White, even in number yea,
and odd like a pattern.
and they were square, all over the form.
and the number of them, being a creation of programmers, was set.
As ye gaze upon the ball, thou shalt see 8 across, and 8 tall.
Bytes on ball, that many tall, and if ye only see half the ball.
and that number seen, being 64, was good. Yea, twice the 8 across,
is 16, the number of bits of a 64.
The total of them all is 128, the next one that was great.
But lastly, the Ball was tilted, like the earth, so that when it
spun, the moving colors changed scanlines, making the trick harder,
and the demo greater, and that the tilt was clockwise, and 16 degrees.
and the Ball went forth,
and it is Boing!

Before reading the poem I confess that I preferred the rendered boing ball, but now I think that I'd have to favour the classic version. Oh well, when my Amiga 2000 goes into it's tower case and I get my new printer I'll just have to render a new ball for my logo, with the correct number of faces and the proper amount of tilt so that it can remain Boing :{)

Garry Dan - Co-Editor

Melbourne Amiga Show

Saturday - Sunday
(9am - 6pm) (9am - 4pm)
Banquet Sat Night 7.30pm

AmigaFest 98 Ticket Reservation Form

Tickets	Price	How Many	Total
• Saturday Day Pass (Save $2.00)	$ 8.00		
• Sunday Day Pass (Save $2.00)	$ 8.00		
• Two Day Pass (Save $5.00)	$15.00		
• Saturday Night Banquet	$27.00		
Please fill out the form are remit with correct amount			

Banquet tickets will not be available on the day. Seating is limited and tickets are allocated on a first come,first served basis

First name _____ Surname _____

Address _____ Phone No _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Post Code _____

Money order☐ Cheque☐ Bank Card☐ Visa Card☐ Master Card☐

Card No☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐

Expiry Date☐☐/☐☐ Signature _____

42 Manning St. Kingswood NSW, 2747
Ph: (02) 4736-8055

Please make cheques or money orders payable to **"Australian Amiga Gazette"**

Amigafest 98

Where: Albert Park, The Pits, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

When: October 24-25th 1998 A.C.E.

What: An Amiga only show.

Why: Because it's about time there was one.

Who: Various shops from around Australia and several user groups , including Cause and Maug.

Details have not been as forthcoming as Planet Amiga or Maug would have liked but despite this the show must go on, and to this end we will endeavour to support show organisers.
Possible things to look out for at the show may be a demo of PC-TASK PPC version (if it is ready in time) and also a seminar on ProStation Audio (hi-end audio package for Amiga).
Maug will be demonstrating the various things that club members do with and to their Amigas, the mind boggles really but there you go.
Cause will be setting up an internet cafe to keep all and sundry occupied, when not spending to their hearts content on the kit they finally got hold of.
This internet cafe will have IRC (internet relay chat) and possibly a webcam. An ISP for the show has not been finalised as yet (if you have any ideas get in touch with the organisers 02-4736-8055).
IRC conferences have been being held over the last few weeks gearing up for the show, the server is :irc.oz.org port:6666 or 6667 nick:yournick channel:#amigafest98
They are scheduled for Monday and Wednesday nights 22:30 leading up to the 24th of Oct. All are welcome and we hope the organisers can turn up there more often than previously.
Above all let us not forget that this is an Amiga show and as such is a good thing, the expected turnout (according to organisers) is 1700 people, which with the lack of promotion is a little unlikely, but you never know there are closet Amiga users all over the place just waiting to come back to the fold when there is an opportunity.
So on a final note any help you could give in setting up and packing up the show would be invaluable to show organisers, the number above should be called if you have any comments or queries about the show.
good bye for now and I hope to see you there...

Scott Pringle

MasterISO v2.1 Vs. MakeCD v3.2a & BurnIt v2: The CD Burning Phenomena

Lately CD burning has become a popular past-time for many users on all platforms. CD writers are now way under the $1000 Australian mark. With the lower cost of burners people are backing up and storing their data, favourite music or console games onto CD's. Fortunately the Amiga is one of the computers best suited to use these mass storage devices.

The CD burner craze has caused people and companies to make IDE and SCSI CD Burners. SCSI has dominated while the IDE variant has not gained as much support. The main reasons for this is that the IDE variety cause problems for Wintel (Windows/Intel) and Amiga users. That is why so many Burners are SCSI. The main reason for these problems is that IDE (Integrated Drive Electronics) uses a lot CPU time while SCSI (Small Computer Systems Interface) uses very little CPU time. CPU time is very important to CD Burning. When you send data to the CD burner (Computer data or Audio), it needs to be fed to the burner at a constant stream otherwise the burner will not write properly. This is why Amigas, which have always used SCSI, are great for burning Cd's.

In the early days of CD burning this used to be a big dilemma, because drives that could keep up with CD Burners cost large sums of money. Now that hard drives and CD readers are fast there is no problem with speed. Instead people multitask (run many programs at once). This deprives the computer of CPU time, data flow to the CD burner is interrupted, the CD gets errors and you get a coaster (a bad CD).

The Amiga is one of the best suited systems for CD burning because of its pre-emptive multitasking O/S (Operating System). A 68040 Amiga with a good SCSI controller can burn a CD smoothly while doing word processing, web browsing, email, chatting and file transfers in an FTP client <Paul often has 3 things going while cutting a CD>. It is good to know that the Amiga is so well suited to Burning CD's when the Wintel(Windows/Intel) users are stuck with not touching their system at all. Pentium users are known to stuff up their burning of a CD just by moving their mouse around.

There are two ways to copy/backup a CD. DAO (Disc At Once) and TAO (Track At Once). Disc At Once (DAO) copy's the CD exactly, Track At Once (TAO) copy each track of the CD one at a time (A track being like 1 song on a Audio CD). Imagine DAO being similar to X-Copy (a floppy backup program) or even DMS (Disk Masher System) compared to TAO being like DirectoryOpus (or Dir Work) copying files selectively.

The software on the Amiga is updated frequently. New versions of all CD software for the Amiga, appear publicly about every month. This includes better drivers and new drive support each issue. When I got a CD burner everyone told me that MasterISO was the one to look at and that MakeCD although hard to use was also good. I played with all packages before I made my decision. The first on my journey was MasterISO.

MasterISO

MasterISO is an easy commercial program to use with its own unique GUI layout/format. MasterISO's first open project menu is a bit akward where it breaks up CD to CD copy and hard drive to CD copy. What if you want a mixture? Or CD to HD to CD (In DAO) format)?.

After working out what each section does properly the program is easy thing to use, but limited in areas. One of my main gripes is that it does not work with AmiCDFS. AsimCDFS is required to copy from one drive to another as AmiCDFS drives do not show up in its list.

The usage of its own GUI has it up's and downs. If you run a high resolution (I run 1024x768) anything above 640x256 will be limited as the list window (next page) cannot be easily resized (to see a more complete list). This leaves users who upgrade their Amiga's wondering where their hard earned money goes. Who wants to go back to 640x256 screen resolution?

Its GUI format can at times become slow and clunky. Even the newest incarnation of MasterISO v2.1 re-draws the screen uselessly after changing a tick (Rock Ridge/Joliet volume). Making a CD backup of a hard drive is easy and very fast to do. To help you make the CD there is useful information on space used so far. MasterISO allows Joliet (Windows CD Format), RockRidge and ISO volumes. There is no mention of HFS (Macintosh) format. Naming of the CD and options are easy and quick along with turning on and off recording of the Amiga's Protection bits.

MakeCD

MakeCD is an overwhelming shareware program at first. You are being asked questions straight away about your computer. It has been improved since earlier versions where all users were treated the same. Current MakeCD versions make it easier. Now you get a choice between Novice or Expert. The choice alters the GUI and makes it easier to use the program. The program has a lot of options, leaving the unenlightened or just plain new guy on the block lost in all its complexity.

The many features allow you to do many things. It's just a case of getting through them and understanding what each feature does. The MakeCD history tells you what problems you will encounter with

various brands of drive. So you know what will and won't work.

MakeCD takes some getting used to. Some users who are used to MUI will think it's yuk. If you use Triton Prefs (which is on Aminet) you can snapshot windows placements and change the GUI appearance in a similar way to MUI. MakeCD allows you configure it heavily for every aspect of your system from a realistic sense, with buffer changing being in Kilobytes. MakeCD allows you to use split sources e.g. half of the destination CD comes from your Hard Drive while the other half comes from a CD. You can mix and match if you update a CD. This is useful in some situations. The MakeCD GUI for changing from TAO and DAO is in a separate window which I found silly. You end up flicking windows when you shouldn't have to. MakeCD has a nice feature for people who just want backup their CD's. It starts MakeCD in CD Copy mode. This way all options and features are there on one window. You just follow the on screen prompts. One problem with MakeCD is: when dumping a Audio CD to hard drive MakeCD gives files filenames that are too long. These filenames are sometimes not deletable by AmigaDOS unless you delete the whole directory they are within. This happens on FFS(v39+), AFS and PFS2. Thankfully this bug only affects the information files for the image files so they are usually about 44 bytes in each.

MakeCD does not support Joliet or HFS filesystems at this stage. This is a pity since it has great support for more drives than any other program tested. It also handles direct CD burning of AIFF, WAV (uncompressed), MAUD (uncompressed, u-law, a-law), AIFC (uncompressed), MPEG-A (MP3 sound files using the mpega.library) and Samplitude HDP (only 44.1kHz!).

Doing a straight conversion of Audio files to CD takes a high powered CPU. It was not possible to test the CPU grunt required as all the sound file formats were not available to me at the moment.

As MakeCD burns it gives you a lot of information, the most of all burning software. You are fully informed, which makes it a pleasure using it.

For backing up a hard drive to a CD, MakeCD has many options. Even Amiga protection bits CD-TV/CD32 bootable CD's and MS-DOS bootable Cd's can be copied. MakeCD's adding of files is not as visually appealing or as adjustable as other programs but works well. Just point it to the directory you wish to burn to CD and it burns it.

BurnIt 2

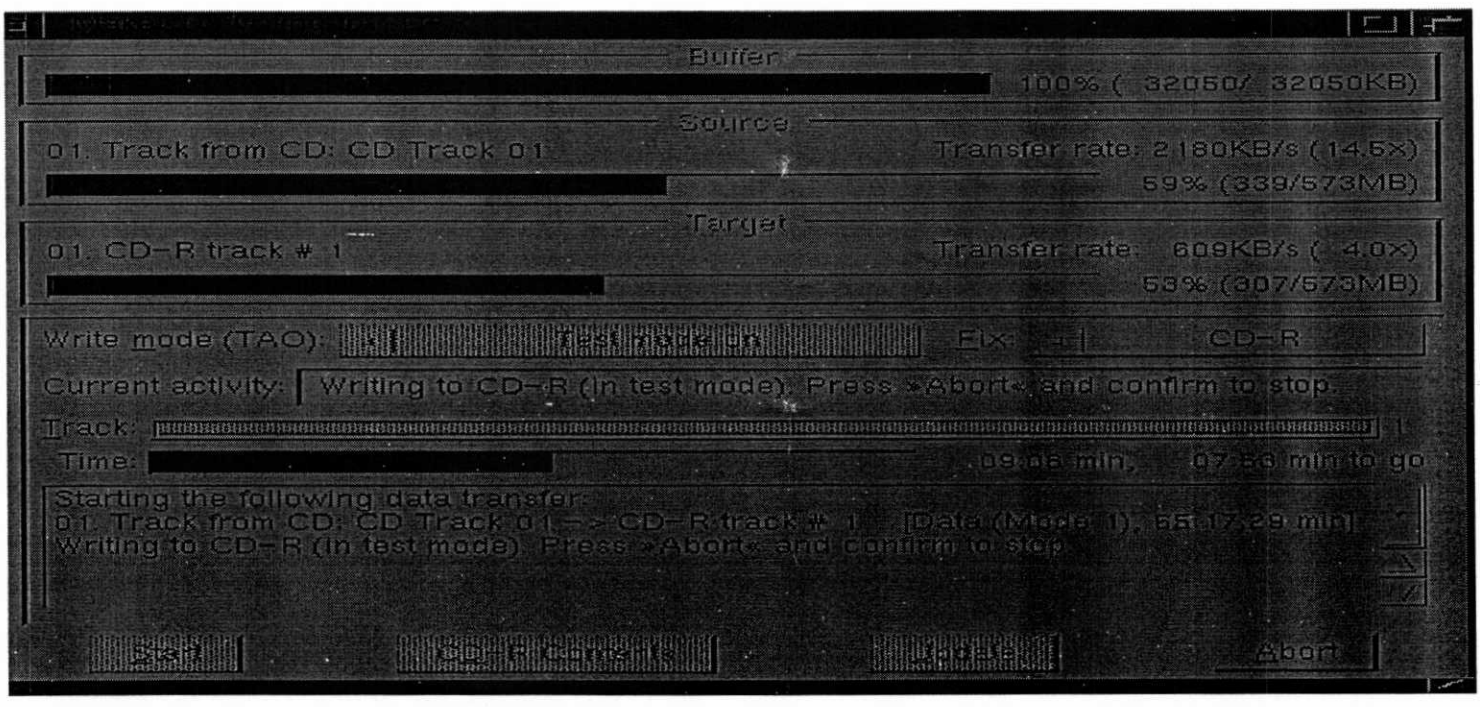
BurnIt 2 is a commercial program that is very easy to use with a good standard GUI layout. Its outstanding feature is audio manipulation. It also does the most common CD burning operations. Its audio operations are mainly aimed at altering and editing sound files. This includes fade in & out, de-crackling and converting MAUD & WAV format sound files. A sample editor is part of the editing suite. This is useful to sound users who wish to record some old Tapes/Vinyl to CD.

BurnIt GUI has a nice GUI where adding of files from a Hard Drive is easy and quick. It is very similar to MasterISO in setting up of HD files to burn onto a CD.

The BurnIt GUI is quite well designed. You can snapshot the GUI by moving the window to the place you want it to be and hitting the Save button in BurnIt Prefs. BurnIt is forced to use MagicWB buttons in its main menu. This is annoying to high end Amiga users. High end users mostly use NewIcons due to better RTG support (for speed) and not relying on shades of grey. This lack of customization is annoying. If only the GUI was text only!

The programs operation seems flawless and easy to use.

by Paul Demark


Buffer
100% (32050/ 32050KB)
Source
01. Track from CD: CD Track 01
Transfer rate: 2180KB/s (14.5x)
59% (339/573MB)
Target
01. CD-R track # 1
Transfer rate: 609KB/s (4.0x)
53% (307/573MB)
Write mode (TAO):
Test mode on
Fix
CD-R
Current activity:
Writing to CD-R (in test mode). Press »Abort« and confirm to stop.
Track:
Time:
09:08 min,
07:56 min to go
Starting the following data transfer:
01. Track from CD: CD Track 01 -> CD-R track # 1 [Data (Mode 1), 65:17.29 min]
Writing to CD-R (in test mode). Press »Abort« and confirm to stop.
Abort

Hardview-Burn, Baby Burn CD Inferno

HARDWARE

Of all the Burners which I have used myself and heard about from friends, it seems the best and most reliable and compatible with all software titles is the Yamaha series of Burners. I myself use a Yamaha 400t, while I own also a Panasonic 8x4 Burner, I would not suggest this burner as it has various problems on most programs (with Mode 2 CDs). MasterISO v2.1 seems to handle the Panasonic better then MakeCD, but MakeCD supports some Panasonic drives in a limited manner. Yamaha Burners work flawlessly in all areas from friends and people around the world I know with them. Ricoh is also another good brand of burners that are reliable and also supported fully. The Sony range of burners commonly have some problems with software and some types of CDs. If you find yourself buying a CD-R or CD-RW Drive, the most important thing you should read before buying a drive is to read the MakeCD History text file. It explains the problems and strange occurrences of various drives, thus giving you a good idea if any/all programs are going to support them properly. It gives detailed information of the problems and if they can be worked around or not.

With your burner, you will need a good SCSI controller. Any of the Phase 5 controllers are quite good and fast, the 040 Warp SCSI is also good. RapidFire I have heard os good also. I have numerous troubles personally with the 4091 and thus I suggest staying away from that SCSI controller, although it might work for some people. The GVP series of controllers I have know are still in abundance out there, I do not know if they can keep up with the job of burning. For A1200 users, I would imagine the Squirrel and such might just be able to handle CD Burning (maybe not handle 4 speed writing, but should handle 2 speed) but should get the job done. I recommend people planning to have a CD burner on their system to have a 030/50 or higher, and with a 040/33 or higher, you can start to multitask a fair bit while burning.

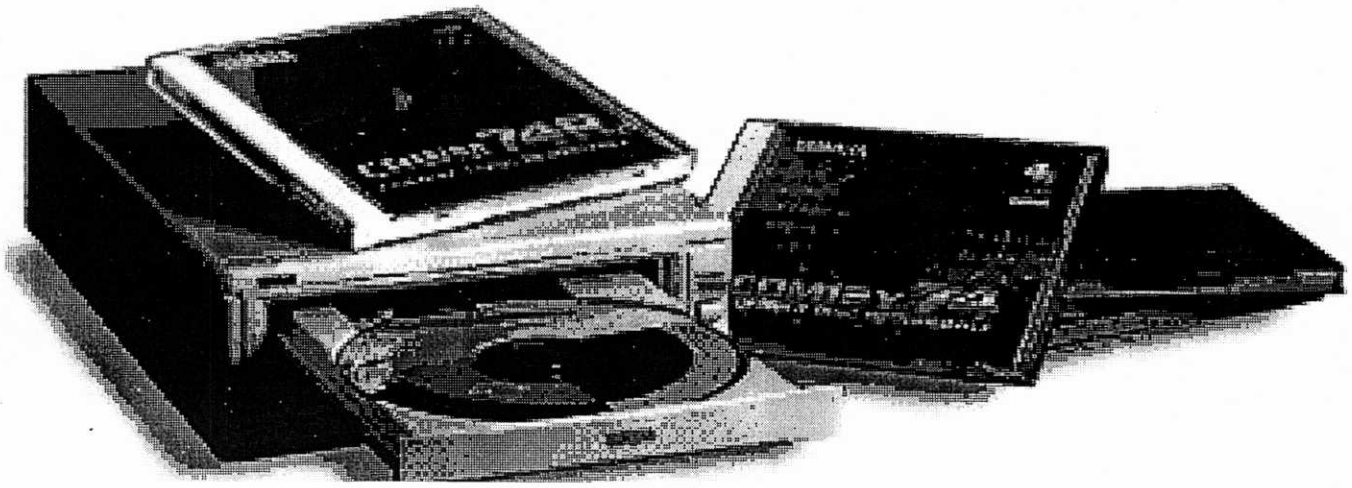
by Paul Demark

I also have a Yamaha burner in my system and have found it to be great, I bought a Yamaha 4260t CD-R/RW. 4 speed write, 2 speed rewrite and 6 speed read. The rewriteable part seems a bit of a waste of time at 2 speed but Yamaha have just bought out a new drive, the 4416.This drive writes at 4 at speed, rewrites at 4 speed and reads at 16 speed. Of course the SCSI option is the best one. This drive seems a good option for those of you who only have room for one CD drive on your system because it is three drives in one and with 4 x RW it makes it more useful than the 4260. Yamaha have apparently stopped producing all other drives than the ones that write and rewrite, that is they will only produce CD-R/RW drives in future not CD-R drives.

My drive is currently at Paul's. We are conducting various experiments at the moment and so far have burned 2 CD's simultaneously from 2 readers, burned 2 CD's from the same image at the same time, and we have also created a cat purely from CD's (which we are particularly proud of). We are attempting to get 4 CD's burned simultaneously at 4 speed, but as you can imagine this is difficult to accomplish as we need to borrow various bits of hardware, burners, from friends to try it out. If we manage to get 4 to work we will let you know (we are very close to it) and then you can tell those PC heads, who hassle you, about it and watch their jaws drop as do most of the ones I tell about burning 2 CD's. Keep on Truckin' fellow Amiganauts! and remember to...

Burn, Baby Burn CD Inferno

by Scott Pringle



What you get for your $25 membership fee at...

MAUG

Melbourne Amiga Users Group, Inc.

The Melbourne Amiga Users Group meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday at the Senior Citizens Hall Kellaway Ave., Moonee Ponds. The hall opens at 7.30pm with our formal meeting starting at 8pm.

At the meeting you can take advantage of:

- **Public Domain Software**

  Over 8 gigabytes of Amiga software from which to choose, including the latest Aminet and Freshfish CDs.

- **Questions and Answers**

  Utilise the experience of others to find answers to any problems you may be having with your Amiga.

- **Demonstrations**

  Find out about new hardware and software product releases and see them yourself. Demonstrations by club members and local dealers are welcome.

- **Projector**

  Have a clear view of all demonstrations on the clubs colour video projector.

- **News**

  Find out the latest Amiga news; local and via the worldwide internet.

- **Refreshments**

  A tea, coffee and biscuit break is held between the formal meeting and general discussion time.

- **Special Club Deals / Equipment Sales**

  Club members are entitled to special deals organized by the club on some Amiga related hardware and software. Members can also buy or sell their own equipment.

- **Special Interest Groups**

  The club has a wide range of members with interests in Amiga related uses including PPC-Amiga, games, video, music, graphics, coms, and programming.

- **All levels**

  The club caters to all levels of Amiga users, from beginner to the "power user".

- **Amiga Central**

  Membership provides full access to all areas of the clubs Bulletin Board System **Amiga Central** on (03) 9337-7174:

  Modem speeds from 2400 baud to 33,600 V34+
  Message areas from AmigaNet, Fidonet and the Internet
  with off-line news reader and Point support also available.
  Gigabytes of Amiga software available from the systems multi CD stacker.

- **Planet Amiga Magazine**

  Our club magazine which is published six times a year with a cover price of $2 ($12value) is free to all paid up club members.

Arexx

Hi everyone, one of the handiest things ever created for the Amiga OS is Arexx. It can also be very eccentric. When I first attempted to use the language I became a little discouraged after many "unexpected results" but thanks to some helpful tutorials I can muddle my way through, and I think I would now miss it terribly. Instead of having several "GUI interfaces" for popular programs I use Directory Opus 4 for nearly everything, image and sound format conversion and viewing via ADPro, Play16 and AmiSox, mass compression/ decompression of files and bulk newsgroup base64/uudecode file extraction. I also use a combination of Arexx and text scripts for most of my network tasks.

In order to gauge interest from the readers (you lot!) I'm submitting the following source code, it's the routine that has become my standard method for extracting filenames from Dopus4, this example will simply copy the list of selected names from the source window into a text file in the destination window but once gathered the list of names has MANY uses.

Please note:
1. /* and */ mark the beginning and end of a 'remark' statement. All Arexx scripts MUST begin with a 'rem'.
2. The two ll characters are created with the 'shift \' combo, just to the left of the backspace key, on most keyboards it looks like a stretched colon character, just hit it twice and you're in business.
3. Anything in uppercase is a command and anything in lower case is a variable, well, mostly :{)
A command could mean a built-in Arexx command, an Arexx command from a particular program OR one of your own routines that can be treated as a command. Case IS important in Arexx.
4. This code has elements from 3 or 4 different arexx example scripts, I don't claim that it's original!

OK, listing begins:

```
/*  Planet_Amiga_3.DOPUS: */
/*  Collect selected filenames from DOpus 4.x */

TRACE OFF
OPTIONS RESULTS
SIGNAL ON FAILURE
clearfiles = 1      /* 0 to leave files selected, 1 to deselect files */
/* Collect data from Dopus */
CALL SETDOPUS

/* Now we can do some really handy things with the files
   but for now, we'll just save them to a text file */
/* Process the list */
txtfile = destpathII'dummy.txt'
mode = 'W'
IF OPEN(temp,txtfile,mode) THEN
  DO i=0 TO n-1
   CALL WRITELN(temp,fname.i)
  END
  CALL CLOSE temp

/* All finished */
dopustofront
rescan destwind
EXIT 0

ERROR:
  ADDRESS 'DOPUS.1'
  dopustofront
  beep
  notify 'Error handling 'IIfname.i
EXIT 20

SETDOPUS:
  /* Send commands to DOpus arexx port */
```

ARexx

```
ADDRESS 'DOPUS.1'
/* Get the active window */
STATUS 3
window=RESULT
IF window THEN destwind=0; ELSE destwind=1
/* Set path name to active window path */
STATUS 13 window
path=RESULT
/* Set the path name to the destination window */
STATUS 13 destwind
destpath=RESULT
/* Get rid of path(s) with a space in it! */
IF LEFT(path,8)='Ram Disk' THEN DO
  PARSE UPPER VAR path':'rest
  path='RAM:'||rest
END
IF LEFT(destpath,8)='Ram Disk' THEN DO
  PARSE UPPER VAR destpath':'drest
  destpath='RAM:'||drest
END
/* Collect all selected files */
/* Have to do it the hard way since 'getselectedfiles' stuffs up! */
STATUS 9 win    /* get number of selected entries */
entries=RESULT
STATUS 6 window  /* get total number of entries */
all=RESULT
n=0
DO i=1 TO all
  getentry i
  fname.n=RESULT
  fileinfo '"'RESULT'" /'
  PARSE VAR RESULT '/' '/' '/' type.n '/' select '/'
  IF select THEN
    n=n+1
  IF n>entries THEN
    i = all
END
/* Now if clearfiles = 1 (line 8) deselect all files that were selected */
/* Set 'clearfiles=0' if you want to MOVE,DELETE etc the files after conversion */
IF clearfiles THEN
  NONE
RETURN
```

That's it, listing ends. If there's enough interest I'll provide some more examples. If you ask him nice Greg might even put a Planet_Amiga tutorial section on the BBS where members can post examples and routines that they find handy ;{)

Garry Dan (garryd@eck.net.au)
Co-Editor

AMIGA Genius

Second-hand hardware

A2091 SCSI card	-$125
A590 with 20MB HD, 2MB RAM	-$170
A2000, single FDD, 52MB HD, 3MB RAM	-$250
1084 colour monitor	-$125
External floppy drive's	-$ 60
A500 512KB RAM cards	-$ 40
A500 power supplies	-$ 40

New hardware items

External 33.6K Voice/Fax/Data Modem	-$105
External 56K Voice/Fax/Data Modem	-$130
Panasonic 4Wx8R CD-R bare drive	-$700
Pioneer 32x slot-load IDE CD-ROM drive	-$130

We are looking foreward to meeting you in Melbourne at Amigafest 98

826 Hunter St. Newcastle West,NSW, 2302 *Phone: (02) 4962-3222*

E-Mail: cdgtb@hunterlink.net.au *Fax: (02) 4962-2954*

Contest

Stop, its Hammer time!
A little while ago I was informed that, On the BP Australia Intra-net, the Amiga is listed as "A Merely Insignifigant Gaming Addiction." (I suggest we get our fuel elswhere!!!)
I always thought it stood for:
"Amazing Multitasking Innovation,Generations Ahead" or
"Astounding Multimedia Inspired Great Applications

The contest goes something like this.....
Send Planet Amiga your version(vision?) of what AMIGA "stands for"
(positive entries only).All worthwhile entries will be printed.....
and of course Planet Amiga will be providing a prize for the best entries.
Get thinking get,working.....and get Bill Gates!!!!

Rick "WarHammer" Hammond

Tech Talk With David

Overclocking the Amiga Part 2
David Myers
Crystal Oscillators.

Most Amiga hardware derives timing information from an oscillator module. Usually a flat, rectangular metal can although some are encased in plastic. They are commonly supplied in 2 sizes, the larger one is compatible with the size of a 14 pin DIL (Dual In Line) IC. The smaller, square size is compatible with 8 pin DILs. The smaller size is rapidly becoming more popular, though, harder to find when you need to buy one!

An oscillator module contains a quartz crystal as well as some electronics which allows it to generate an accurate signal - a 5v peak-to-peak square wave. The frequency is fixed - and labelled on the can. Common frequencies are:

*16 MHz - for early A3000s and for ISA clocking on the A2386 Bridgeboard.
*25 MHz - later A3000s, most A2000 accelerators.
*28.35 MHz - contained in all Amigas - for generating custom chip timing, and clocking in 68000 models.
*33 MHz - some 68030 accelerators.
*40 MHz - some 68030 accelerators.
*50 MHz - A4000s, some 68030 accelerators, 68060 accelerators, A2386/25 Bridgeboard etc..
*66 MHz - some 68040 accelerators, PPC accelerators.
*80 MHz - some 68040 accelerators.

All types listed can be purchased at electronics shops - or can be found on old PC hardware. Incidentally, some accelerators will derive a multiple of the oscillator frequency for their CPU, for example, a 40MHz 68040 uses an 80MHz oscillator divided by 2. A 233MHz PPC uses a 66MHz oscillator multiplied by 3.5.

The oscillator is almost always soldered in place, though you may be lucky to find it socketed, in which case, changing it for another one is easy. Usually, however, you will need to desolder it, and it really is only a job for someone who can handle a soldering iron. Insert a thin bladed screwdriver between the body of the oscillator and very gently lever it up as you heat the solder on the two soldered joints nearest your screwdriver by alternately applying the soldering iron tip. As the oscillator comes free, switch to the other side and repeat. Keep doing this until the crystal is free. Take note which end of the PCB which corresponds with the end of the crystal that is marked with a dot. You will need to know this later. Clean out the solder from the pads on the PCB with a soldering iron and some solder wick. Avoid overheating.

Next you need the appropriate IC socket - a 14 pin one for a rectangular oscillator, or an 8-pin one for a square oscillator. These can be bought at any electronics shop. Remove all the pins except for those in each corner - corresponding to the four pins on the oscillator. Note that one end of the socket contains a semi-circular cut-out. This lines up with the position you noted where the dot on the oscillator was. Solder the socket in place. It is then simply a matter of plugging the new crystal in, with the dot facing the same end as the semi-circular notch. Make sure you get this alignment correct or you WILL destroy the oscillator module.

It goes without saying that you WILL void any warranty on your equipment by doing this, so it's best to do this on your creaky old 030! Don't forget to also take precautions against static discharge while doing this. Next issue, I'll describe how to overclock the A3640 card for the A3000/A4000.Check out my new Amiga Overclocking Website at http://www.starnet.com.au/davem/amiga.html

David Myers

BEG, BORROW OR STEAL

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Ch-ch-ch-changes

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Melbourne Amiga User Group

Place:

Senior Citizen's Hall, Kellaway Ave

Time:

1st and 3rd Thursday of every month
ALL WELCOME

Submissions

This is where all your letters and correspondence will be printed in future editions of the magazine. Please feel free to write or submit anything you like (Amiga related, of course).

Future editions of the magazine depend upon the support of the readers.

WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOU WANT!

So drop us a line or send us some mail (e or snail) or hand in your submissions at a user group meeting. Send to Planet Amiga c/o PO BOX 22 Moonee Vale LPO Vic 3055 or e-mail me at asp@axs.com.au or phone Michael on (03) 9311-8256

COMING UP

Next issue we will have????? AFS/PFS reviewed now that Computa Magic is the exclusive Australian distributor enquires ph 03 9331-5600.
News on what happened at the show, new hardware and software.
As well as what's hot and what's not!
A new rumours column from Paul!!!!
And anything else you would care to contribute!

SEE YOU THERE!

Contributions

Thanks to all who helped in the production of this magazine including :-
Garry Dan (co-editor and person who gets things done when editors get busy or lazy and the Arexx tutorial.
David Myers (for the tech talk column, and congratulations for recently getting a link from ClickBOOM to his website http//qq/davem/amiga.html)
Paul Demark for Burn baby burn, CD inferno.
Rick Hammond for the contest, mighty fine idea.
Alyss Moorman for compiling and checking the mag.
Michael Czajka for printing,
and Olly and Erik Koenders (for the cover pic), if I missed anyone I apologise. ;)
But most of all thanks for supporting the Amiga and it's Users.
Scott Pringle (ed)

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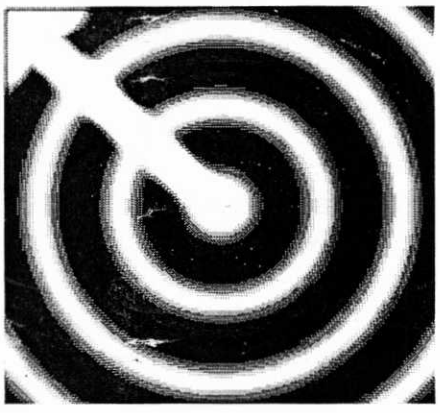
AMIGA POWER

the only one worth knowing



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MADE WITH, BY AND FOR AMIGA

SEE YOU NEXT ISSUE